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ABSTRACT

This document lists and explains commonly used environmental education terms used by the ERIC Clearinghouse for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education (ERIC/CSMEE) and the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) in their indexing practices. It can be used as a guideline for educators. (YDS)

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Thesaurus of Environmental Education Terms

for use in
Electronic Database Searching

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Database Search Language for Environmental Educators

Note: these terms are the terms commonly used by ERIC/CSMEE and ENC, this is not an exhaustive list and is by no means the only list of search language available. It is intended as a guideline for educators.

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Environment	surrounding conditions, forces or factors potentially capable of influencing, modifying or interacting with an organism, material or other entity (use a more specific term if possible)	physical environment	conservation (environment), ecology, environmental education, environmental influences, environmental research, humanization, resources, environmental factors
Environmental Education		conservation education	adventure education, biological sciences, conservation (environment), ecology, energy education, environment, forestry, global education, marine education, natural resources, outdoor education, population education, science and society, social biology, soil conservation, sustainable development, wilderness
Adventure Education	type of outdoor education that attempts to teach environmental awareness and build self confidence through activities that involve risk or stress, such as rock climbing, survival training, etc.	Adventure learning, outdoor education	experiential learning, field experience learning, field trips, outdoor activities, risk, self concept, trails, wilderness

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Outdoor Education	utilization of the outdoor environment to promote experiential learning and enrich the curriculum	adventure education	conservation education, experiential learning, field trips, interdisciplinary approach, outdoor activities, rural education, summer programs, trails, wilderness
Acid Rain	Precipitation containing destructive acid concentration. Caused when pollutants, chiefly oxides of Sulphur and Nitrogen are chemically combined with water vapors in the atmosphere.	Air pollution, water pollution	meteorology, water quality
Action Learning	learning by doing . . . includes knowledge and skills acquired outside of book/lecture learning situations through work, play and other life experiences	experiential learning, community experience	activity learning, activity units, discovery learning
Action Research	research designed to yield practical results that are immediately applicable to a specific situation or problem	participatory action research	community action, evaluation methods, participatory research
Adjustment (to environment)	a condition of harmonious relation to the environment, in which internal needs are satisfied and external demands are met	adaptability	ecology, environment, health
Advocacy	full and active support for and representation of an individual group, cause or idea	environmental advocacy	citizen participation, needs services, social action

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Aesthetics	branch of philosophy dealing with beauty, artistic expression, and physiological responses to beauty and art including nature	nature	aesthetic values, discipline based art education
Air Pollution		air pollution control, atmospheric pollution, SMOG	climate, conservation, ecology, environmental standards, greenhouse effects
Awareness	the process of becoming aware of objects, qualities or relations via the senses – involves the reception, processing, and interpretation of impressions	perceptions	comprehension, discovery processes, inferences
Behavior Change	complete of partial alteration in the observable responses	attitude change	behavior, change strategies
Built Environment	all buildings, monuments, roadways, landscapes, etc	physical environment	community characteristics, environmental influences
Camping		recreational activities	adventure education, outdoor activities, trails, wilderness

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Climate	the prevailing conditions of the physical environment indoor or outdoor	climactic factors (1969, 1980), physical environment	air pollution, climate change, climate control, diffusion (physics), earth science, ecology, environmental influences, geographic location, heat, humidity, light, meteorology, pollution, solar energy, temperature, thermal environment, water, weather, wind (meteorology)
Climate Change	non-seasonal, semipermanent change in the physical environment of a region	global warming	climate, environmental influences, meteorology
Community education for the environment	extending existing education resources and programs into the community	education	community, community centers, community development, community resources, extension education, outreach programs
Conservation (environment)	preservation and protection of the environment including natural resources from loss, waste or harm	energy conservation, soil conservation	air pollution, conservation education, depleted resources, ecological factors, ecology, endangered species, environment, environmental education, forestry, fuel consumption natural resources, recycling, sustainable development, wastes, water pollution, water quality, water resources, wetlands, wilderness, wildlife management
Conservation Education		environmental education	conservation, energy conservation, energy education, forestry, natural resources, outdoor education, soil conservation, trials, wilderness, wetlands

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Curriculum Development	activities such as conceptualizing, planning, implementing, field testing, and researching that are intended to produce new or improved curricula	curriculum adaptation, curriculum improvement, educational development	course content, curriculum, curriculum based assessments, instructional development, material development, media adaptation
Decision Making Skills		skills	daily living skills, decision making, problem solving, thinking skills
Energy Conservation	preventing loss or waste of energy	heat recovery, conservation (environment)	alternative energy sources, climate control, conservation education, depleted resources, ecological factors, ecology, energy, energy audits, energy education, energy management, energy occupations, fuel consumption, fuels, life cycle costing, motor vehicles, natural resources, thermal insulation, underground facilities, water resources
Environmental Influences	influences of the physical environment		biological influences climate, climate change, climate control, crowding, environmental research, hazardous materials, physical environment, pollution, radiation effects, sanitation, thermal environment, weather
Environmental Research	study of the physical environment		environmental influences, physical environment, scientific research, use "studies"

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Environmental Standards	laws, rules or regulations relating to the quality of the physical environment	standards	environmental criteria. Air pollution, ecology, energy audits, energy management, hazardous materials, motor vehicles, noise (sound), occupational safety and health, pests, physical environment, poisons, pollution, public health, quality of life, waste disposal, water pollution, water quality
Conservation (environment)	preservation and protection of the environment including natural resources from loss, waste or harm	energy conservation, soil conservation	soil conservation, air pollution, conservation education, depleted resources, ecological factors, ecology, endangered species, environment, environmental education, forestry, fuel consumption natural resources, recycling, sustainable development, wastes, water pollution, water quality, water resources, wetlands, wilderness, wildlife management
Conservation Education		environmental education	biological sciences, conservation (environment), energy conservation, energy education, fire science education, forestry, geography, natural resources, outdoor education, physical sciences, soil conservation, trials, wilderness, wetlands

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Ecology	study of the interrelationships between organisms and their environment	ecosystems	adjustment to (to environment), air pollution, area studies, biology, botany, climate, conservation (environment), ecological factors, energy conservation, entropy, estuaries, ethology, evolution, habitats, human geography, marine biology, mycology, noise (sound), ocean engineering, pests, photosynthesis, quality of life, radiation biology, recycling, social biology, soil conservation, sustainable development, waste disposal, wastes, water, water quality, weather, wetlands, wilderness, wind (meteorology), zoology
Ecological Factors		influences	conservation (environment), crowding, ecology, energy conservation, poisons, pollution, radiation effects
Earth Science		geochemistry, geology, geophysics, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geology, seismology, soil science, physical science	astronomy, cartography, chemistry, climate, crystallography, physical environment, physics, planetariums, plate tectonics, satellites (aerospace), space sciences, topography, water, wind (meteorology)

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Energy Education	learning/teaching activities, often interdisciplinary in nature, that focus on such topics as energy, resources, conversions, conservation forms, uses and issues – including both general and technical educational programs		alternative energy sources, conservation education, consumer education, energy, energy conservation, energy occupations, fuels, science education, technology education, utilities
Endangered Species		wildlife	animals, conservation (environment), natural resources, physical environment, plant pathology, plants (botany), wildlife management
Forestry		technology	agriculture, botany, conservation (environment), conservation education, forestry aids, forestry occupations, land use, lumber industry, natural resources, nurseries (horticulture), soil conservation, soil science, trees, wildlife management
Global Approach	approaches to social, cultural, scientific and humanistic questions involving an orientation to the world as a single interacting system	International approach, world mindedness, worldwide approach, global education, holistic approach	cultural awareness, group unity, intercultural programs, interdisciplinary approach, international cooperation, international relations, social sciences, world affairs, world problems

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Global Education	learning/teaching activities across all grade levels that focus on the interrelatedness of peoples, cultures and nations – subfields include world geography, world history, and international relations	global studies education, world studies education, international education, global approach	area studies, citizenship education, cross cultural studies, economics education, ethnic studies, multi cultural education, world geography, world history
Global Warming	gradual increases in the earth's temperature (if appropriate, use the more specific term "greenhouse effect)	greenhouse effect, climate change	heat, temperature, world problems
Geothermal Energy	power derived from the earth's heat		alternative energy sources, electricity, geology, geophysics, groundwater, heat, power, technology, water resources
Greenhouse Effect	global warming caused by atmospheric gasses and particles that trap heat and radiate it back to the earth – of concern is possible run away warming due to buildups of carbon dioxide and other gasses through fossil fuel burning and deforestation	global warming	air pollution, solar energy
Habitats	places where animals or plants normally live		animals, ecology, estuaries, natural resources, physical environment, plants (botany), wetlands, wildlife, wildlife management

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Hazardous Materials	ignitable, corrosive, infectious, reactive, or toxic materials that pose a threat to living things	dangerous materials, hazardous waste, poisons	asbestos, environmental influences, environmental standards, laboratory safety, occupational safety and health, physical environment, physical health, radiation, safety, sanitation, school safety, wastes
Land Use		land settlement, soil conservation	agriculture, agronomy, community planning, educational facilities planning, facility planning, forestry, land acquisition, landlords, mining, real estate, road construction, soil science, turf management, underground facilities, urban planning, use studies, wetlands, wilderness, zoning
Marine Education	interdisciplinary group of learning/teaching activities concerning the earth's waters and seas	marine science education, maritime education	estuaries, hydrology, marine biology, oceanography, science education, underwater diving, water, wetlands
Meteorology		earth science	acid rain, climate, climate change, humidity, physics, solar energy, temperature, thermal environment, water, weather, wind (meteorology)
Natural Resources		coal, fossil fuels, oil, water resources	agricultural education, agriculture, alternative energy sources, asbestos, community resources, conservation (environment), conservation education, depleted resources, endangered species, energy conservation, environmental education, forestry, habitats, minerals, mining parks, physical environment, recycling, soil conservation, sustainable development, wilderness, wildlife

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Nature Centers			aquariums, education service centers, educational facilities, natural sciences, science teaching centers
Pollution		air pollution, water pollution	bacteria, chimneys, climate, disease control, diseases, ecological factors, environmental influences, environmental standards, hazardous materials, health, lead poisoning, noise (sound), physical environment, physical health, poisonings, poisons, public health, radiations effects, recycling, solid wastes, urban environment, viruses, waste disposal, waste water, wastes
Population Growth	increase in the number of individuals in a given area due to either natural reproduction or resettlement	demography, development	baby boomers, birth rate, community size, population distribution, population trends, social influences, urbanization
Solar Energy	light and heat radiation of the sun – also the energy collected as heat or converted to electricity from this source	solar heating, solar radiation, solar radiation energy, radiation	alternative energy sources, climate, climate control, electricity, green house effect, heat, light, meteorology, power technology, radiation effects, temperature, thermal environment, wind (meteorology)
Solar System	the sun and all the celestial bodies that revolve around it (including the planets and their moons, the asteroids, comets and meteoroids)		astronomy, planetariums, satellites (aerospace), space exploration, space sciences, stars

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Solid Wastes	unwanted solid or semisolid materials discarded by farms, businesses, communities, or individuals (note: use :waste water" for sewage)	garbage, litter, trash	pollution, recycling, sludge, waste disposal, waste water, water treatment
Space Exploration	scientific investigations of areas beyond the earth's atmosphere (note: use "lunar research" for studies referring to the earth's moon)	extraterrestrial exploration, outer space research, planetary exploration	aerospace technology, astronomy, planetariums, satellites (aerospace), solar system, space sciences, stars
Space Sciences		sciences	aerospace education, aerospace technology, astronomy, earth science, lunar research, navigation, physical sciences, planetariums, satellites (aerospace), solar system, space exploration, stars
Stars	self luminous celestial bodies of hot gas held together by gravity – their energy is produced by nuclear fusion reactions	astronomy, light, planetariums, solar systems, space exploration, space sciences	
Sustainable Development	development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs	sustainable agriculture, development	community development, conservation (environment), developed nations, developing nations, ecology, environmental education, natural resources, physical environment

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Teaching Materials	print and/or non-print materials used in instruction	instructional materials, curriculum materials, educational materials	audiovisual aids, course ware, programmed instructional materials, study guides, educational resources, educational technology, resource materials
Trails	nature trails, pathways	facilities	adventure education, camping, conservation education, outdoor education, park design, parks, recreational facilities
Trees		shade trees, plants	agronomy, botany, forestry, ornamental horticulture, wildlife
Turf Management	lawn maintenance	ornamental horticulture, pesticides, fertilizers	ground keepers, land use, landscaping
Urban Environment		environment, pollution, population growth, urbanization	air pollution, water pollution, urban population, urban planning, urbanization
Waste Disposal	act or process of discarding or throwing away unneeded or excess material including solids, oils, gases, chemicals, and liquids	waste management, recycling, sanitation	air pollution, biotechnology, ecology, environmental standards, radiation, waste water, solid wastes, wastes

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Waste Water	used water carrying suspended or dissolved solids from farms, industries, businesses or homes	sewage, waste water, treatment, wastes, water	pollution, recycling, sludge, solid wastes, waste disposal, water pollution, water treatment
Wastes	unneeded, discarded, or excess material including solids, gases, chemicals and liquids	hazardous waste, refuse, solid waste, waste water	conservation (environment), ecology, hazardous materials, poison, pollution, recycling, resources, sludge, waste disposal
Water Pollution		water pollution control, acid rain, river pollution	conservation (environment), ecology, environmental education, environmental standards, groundwater, hydrology, urban environment, waste disposal, water quality, water resources, water treatment
Water Quality	biological, chemical and physical characteristics of water that influence its healthy and fruitful use	clean water	acid rain, conservation (environment), drinking water, ecology, environmental standards, ground water, health, water, water pollution
Weather	state of atmospheric conditions at any one place and time	climate, meteorology	climate change, climate control, ecology, environmental influences, natural disasters, thermal environment, water, wind
Wetlands	low area with shallow water or water-soaked soils	estuaries, fisheries, marine biology, oceanography	conservation (environment), conservation education, ecology, environmental education, habitats, land use, marine education, soil conservation, water, water resources, wildlife management

Term	Definition	See Also	Related Terms
Wilderness	an environmental condition that is characterized by a naturally developed life community undisturbed by human activity	outdoor activities, outdoor education, physical environment	adventure education, camping, conservation (environment), conservation education, ecology, environmental education, land settlement, land use, natural resources, wildlife
Wildlife	animals and/or plants living in a natural (undomesticated or uncultivated) state	endangered species, animals, biological sciences, botany	birds, habitat, natural resources, plant growth, trees, weeds, wilderness, wildlife management
Zoos		animal facilities	aquariums, educational facilities, parks, recreational facilities, wildlife management